

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
**INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

Date: May 20, 2020

To: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

From: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation

Subject: Authorization to Accept Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Grant Funds

**POLICY**

Per Section 56.06 of the Milwaukee County General Ordinances, authorization is required from the County Board to accept state or federal discretionary grant awards.

**BACKGROUND**

Since 1991, the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has received federal funds to administer a variety of transportation improvement programs including the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant program. WisDOT administers CMAQ grants on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to fund transportation-related projects that improve air quality and reduce congestion in air quality non-attainment areas including Milwaukee County. Milwaukee County has successfully applied for, and received, CMAQ grants in the past for various transit and transportation services related projects.

CMAQ projects must comply with applicable federal and state requirements. Projects generally fall into one of three broad categories:

- Projects that reduce the number of vehicle trips and/or vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- Projects that reduce emissions by improving traffic congestion
- Projects that reduce emissions through improved vehicle and fuel technologies

Examples of CMAQ projects throughout Wisconsin include but are not limited to:

- Capital and operating assistance for new transit services
- Rideshare promotion, vanpool purchases and park & ride lots
- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Alternate/clean fuel vehicles and fueling facilities
- Diesel engine idling reduction and retrofit projects
- Marketing programs designed to increase the public's awareness of air quality and transportation issues

CMAQ funding is not a permanent source for administrative and operating costs. Based upon current guidance regarding federal operating assistance, funding for new public transit services is limited to three years of funding that may be used over five years.

In June 2019, WisDOT began accepting applications for CMAQ grant projects to take place during the 2020 – 2024 State Fiscal Year (SFY) period. CMAQ applications were due on August 1, 2019.

On November 7, 2019 the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors provided retroactive approval for the submittal of six Department of Transportation projects and adopted County Board Resolution # 19-701 that directs the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to return to the County Board with available options and alternatives for review and approval of a specific spending plan for the funds that complies with grant regulations should any of the CMAQ Improvement Program projects be approved for funding.

On April 14, 2020 MCDOT was notified by WisDOT that projects have been awarded \$18,982,957 in federal funding. The attached spreadsheet details the projects that were approved as submitted and approved for partial funds. All MCDOT proposed projects were approved.

CMAQ projects require a 20 percent local matching funds contribution. Total approved project costs of \$23,728,696 would be funded by \$18,982,957 in federal funding and \$4,745,39 in required Milwaukee County matching funds. The \$18,982,957 in federal funds includes \$18,068,797 for Transit and \$914,160 for Highways.

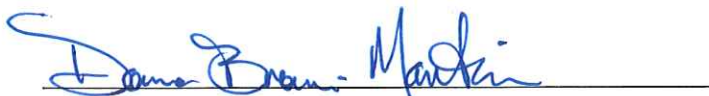
The Department of Transportation recommends that Milwaukee County accept the federal CMAQ funds for approved projects at this time. Subsequently, as the start dates for each of the approved projects are refined in coordination with WisDOT, the MCDOT would identify the individual project and funding, including the required County matching contribution for each project, as part of the annual budget process over the grant period

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Director, Department of Transportation, is recommending that authority be granted to accept \$18,982,957 in Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds covering the grant award period of State Fiscal Years 2020 – 2024.

Prepared by: John Rodgers, Sr. Manager Grants Compliance

Approved by:



Donna Brown-Martin, Director of Transportation



**CMAQ PROJECTS - SFY 2020 to 2024 Program Cycle - APPROVED PROJECTS**

Project Description	Federal Funds Requested (80%)	Federal Funds Awarded (80%)	County Match for Project Amounts Approved (20%)	Total Approved Project Cost (100%)
<p><b>Marketing Activities for MCTS</b></p> <p>Funding will create a public outreach campaign specifically designed to change consumer perceptions about riding the bus, regain the trust of former riders, and convince new riders to use the service. A combination of long-term funding constraints and nationwide changes in commuting and shopping habits have resulted in a significant decline in bus ridership and a concomitant increase in both single-occupant vehicles (SOV) usage and auto emissions. With a dedicated marketing budget that includes ongoing data collection (rider and non-rider research to establish baselines in order to accurately measure ridership increases), this project will be a success.</p>	\$2,480,000.00	\$1,400,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$1,750,000.00
<p><b>MCTS Mobile App Enhancements</b></p> <p>The RideMCTS App is one of the more highly rated Apps in the U.S. for transit trip planning, real-time information, and electronic bus tickets. Individually, each component is industry leading. MCTS is proposing to expand the App to neighboring agencies to provide riders of those systems with the same benefits the App provides to riders of MCTS. Extending the App to other transit providers will better integrate travel across municipal borders and transit modes to provide for increased ease of transit use, higher ridership and a subsequent decrease in emissions from single-occupancy vehicles. E-tickets and on-bus validation should also reduce emissions from less engine idling because of the time savings gained boarding the bus. Since MCTS launched the App in Q1 of 2018, more than 80,000 users have downloaded the App.</p>	\$1,180,800.00	\$1,180,800.00	\$295,200.00	\$1,476,000.00
<p><b>Replacement Buses</b></p> <p>This application seeks to provide funding for the replacement of a portion of the 90 MCTS buses purchased in 2010. Recognizing the Milwaukee County Board's policy directive to transition the MCTS fleet away from fossil fuels, the replacements will be battery-electric buses (BEBs).</p>	\$20,400,000.00	\$13,507,997.00	\$3,376,999.25	\$16,884,996.25
<p><b>BRT Operating Funds in 2024</b></p> <p>East-West BRT is a planned nine-mile, regional, modern transit service connecting major employment, education, and recreation destinations through downtown Milwaukee, Milwaukee's Near West Side, Marquette University, Wauwatosa, and the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center. BRT will provide improved access to the region's most vital, most traveled and most congested corridor, attracting an estimated 7,000 – 9,000 new transit riders daily, a more than 30 percent increase over existing transit ridership in the corridor. This project will reduce transportation energy consumption and air pollutant emissions through the introduction of BEBs. These funds will be used to provide operating assistance in 2024.</p>	\$1,980,000.00	\$1,980,000.00	\$495,000.00	\$2,475,000.00

**Traffic Signal Improvements - Silver Spring Drive**

This project will make traffic signal improvements on W Silver Spring Dr. (CTH E). The road is a major arterial that serves the northern portion of the City of Milwaukee and Suburbs in Waukesha County. The segment is multilane divided. The proposed signal improvements include traffic responsive signal control, vehicle to infrastructure communications equipment, improved detection for sensing traffic and ATC traffic signal controllers to control the intersections. The upgraded traffic signal controllers will also make transit signal priority possible in the future but this is not a goal of the project. The project will leverage the existing fiber communications on the corridor.

**Traffic Signal Improvements - Oklahoma Ave., S. 76th, S. 92nd**

This project proposes to make various traffic signal improvements along the corridor to reduce congestion, improve travel time and to better serve vehicular traffic during times when traffic volumes fluctuate. The project includes 4.2 miles of roadway, 11 signals and has 70372 daily vehicle miles traveled within the project limits. The traffic counts vary from 6800 to 25700 across the segment

**TOTAL**

	\$288,400.00	\$288,400.00	\$72,100.00	\$360,500.00
	\$625,760.00	\$625,760.00	\$156,440.00	\$782,200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$26,954,960.00	\$18,982,957.00	\$4,745,739.25	\$23,728,696.25